



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 13

February Session, 2004

Substitute Senate Bill No. 151

Senate, February 25, 2004

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. GAFFEY of the 13th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL TEST TIMES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 5 of public act 03-174 is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

3 (a) [No] Except as provided for in subsection (b) of this section, no
4 examination required for students in the seventh through twelfth
5 grades, inclusive, pursuant to this chapter, or in accordance with the
6 provisions of the No Child Left Behind Act, P.L. 107-110, shall be
7 administered earlier than nine o'clock a.m., except that for the school
8 year commencing in 2003, the state-wide tenth grade mastery
9 examination shall not be administered earlier than 8:30 a.m.

10 (b) For each of the school years commencing in 2003 and 2004, a
11 local or regional board of education may apply to the Commissioner of
12 Education for a waiver from the testing times prescribed in subsection
13 (a) of this section. The commissioner may grant such waiver if the

14 application (1) shows cause why all other reasonable alternatives are
15 not feasible, and (2) provides evidence that the school board, with
16 notice to parents, students and teachers, shall hold a public hearing no
17 later than sixty days from the date of application on the effects of
18 adolescent sleep deprivation and school scheduling. No later than
19 thirty days after such hearing, the school board shall forward the
20 minutes of the hearing to the commissioner.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In Subsec. (a), "test" was changed to "examination" for consistency.

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.-LCO*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact:

Municipalities	Effect	FY 04 \$	FY 05 \$
Local and Regional School Districts	Savings	Potential	Potential

Explanation

This bill results in a potential savings to local and regional school districts as it provides flexibility in test scheduling which may reduce the need for added busing or other accommodations that may have been made in holding tests no earlier than 9:00 am.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 151

AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL TEST TIMES**SUMMARY:**

In the 2003-04 school year only, this bill allows school districts to give the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), which is the state's 10th grade mastery test, as early as 8:30 am instead of no earlier than 9:00 am, as required by current law. The State Department of Education is directing districts to administer this year's CAPT between March 29 and April 16, 2004.

For the 2003-04 and 2004-05 school years only, the bill also allows local school boards to apply to the education commissioner for permission to give state mastery tests and any tests required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act to students in grades 7-12 before 9:00 am (or 8:30 am in the case of the 2004 CAPT). The commissioner may grant permission only if a board (1) shows why all other reasonable alternatives are not feasible and (2) gives evidence that it will, within 60 days of the application, hold a public hearing on the effects of adolescent sleep deprivation and school scheduling and notify parents, students, and teachers of the hearing. The bill also requires the local board to send the hearing minutes to the commissioner within 30 days after the hearing date.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon passage

BACKGROUND***Connecticut Mastery Tests***

State mastery tests are currently required in grades 4, 6, 8, and 10. The 4th, 6th, and 8th grade tests must be given in the fall and the 10th grade test in the spring. Starting in the 2005-06 school year, in compliance with the federal No Child Left Behind Act, the state will add mastery tests for students in grades 3, 5, and 7. Also starting in 2005-06, all mastery testing will occur in the spring.

Related Bill

sHB 5104, favorably reported by the Education Committee, permanently changes the earliest time for administering grade 7-12 state mastery and No Child Left Behind Act tests to 8:30 am from 9:00 am starting in the 2005-06 school year. It also allows a local school board to ask the education commissioner to allow testing earlier than 8:30 am in the 2005-06 or any subsequent school year under the same conditions as required for testing time waivers under this bill.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 23 Nay 0